GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2564
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
DROUGHT IN ORISSA
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas of Orissa reeling under severe drought;

(b) whether the Government have received the recommendations of the Central Team which visited Orissa for overseeing the drought situation of the State during the current years;

(c) if so, the said report has been laid on the table of the House;

(d) whether the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Central Team and the details of assistance provided in pursuance to the said report;

(e) whether the Central Government have any proposals to extend more Centralassistance under NFCR in view of the serious fiscal crisis faced by the State due to the Super Cyclone of 1999 and severe drought of 2000;

(f) whether the Government have any proposal to assist the State Government`sdrive for intensive irrigation in the Super Cyclone and drought affected areas of the State at least to the extent of 30% to obviate the difficulties of the State Government;
(g) if not, reasons therefor; and
(h) the other measures being taken by the Government to redress the grievances of State Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): As per reports received from the State Government, 11914 villages in 19 districts of Orissa are facing drought like situation.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d): Based on the report of the Central Team and taking into account the existing items and norms for relief assistance and other relevant factors, an assistance of Rs.35.00 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund(NCCF) was released to the Government of Orissa, in the wake of drought.

(e) to (g): Assistance from the NFCR to the tune of Rs.828 crore in the wake of supercyclone had earlier been released. Assistance from NCCF in the wake of drought has also been released for the current year to the State.

(h): The rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in the wake of super cyclone are required to be taken by the State Government. As regards drought like situation, the steps taken include allocation of 1 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, free of cost, for Food for Work Programme, 20,100 tonnes of foodgrains at BPL rates per month for 3 months,allocation of `Feed grade` foodgrains for use as cattle feed, transportation of drinking water and fodder free of cost to the affected areas by the Railways and handing over of exploratory tube wells for drinking water purposes.